



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Care Quality and Cost Council  
Two Boylston Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Boston, MA 02116**

**DEVAL L. PATRICK**  
Governor

**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**  
Lieutenant Governor

**617-988-3360 • Fax 617-727-7662 • TTY 617-988-3175**  
**[www.mass.gov/healthcare](http://www.mass.gov/healthcare)**

**JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.**  
Chair

**KATHARINE LONDON**  
Executive Director

**Health Care Quality and Cost Council**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 5, 2007

One Ashburton 21st floor, room 1

Boston, MA

**Council Members Present:** JudyAnn Bigby, Kevin Beagan, Elizabeth Capstick, James Conway, David Friedman, Kenneth LaBresh, Joseph Lawler, Thomas Lee, Shannon Linde, Katharine London, Dolores Mitchell, Robert Seifert, and Gregory Sullivan.

*Meeting called to order at 1:00pm*

**I. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting November 21, 2007**

Council Approved the minutes of its November 21, 2007 meeting with an amendment to item C on the Agenda. The Council added a reference to the discussion of Senator Murray's proposal regarding an expanded role for Nurse Practitioners.

**II. Executive Director's Report**

- The Council's Communications and Web Design vendor is making progress with respect to meeting its appropriate deadlines. The first two focus group sessions took place last night at the Copley Focus Center. The other two are scheduled to take place tomorrow, December 6, 2007 in Dedham. The vendor will give an update to the Communications and Transparency Committee at its meeting later this afternoon.
- The Council distributed an Administrative Bulletin on Friday, November 30, at the request of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans. The Bulletin lays out in one document health insurance carriers' obligation to submit claims and eligibility data to the Council's vendor, the Maine Health Information Center, as well as the Council and the MHIC's obligation to protect the confidentiality and security of that data.
- Greg Sullivan requested that Administrative Bulletins from the Council be sent to all Council members for review before submission and/or posting. Other members expressed a concern that this review process could delay administrative actions that Council staff need to take quickly. JudyAnn Bigby requested that this conversation be listed on the first item for discussion at the next Council meeting.

- Katharine London distributed an outline for the Council's Annual Report. The Annual report will highlight the Council's work to date, including the goals the Council established for the Commonwealth, the steps required to achieve these goals, the estimated cost of implementation, the potential savings, the potential benefit to the population, and the effect on racial and ethnic disparities. The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DCHFP) agreed to compile data on health care cost trends in Massachusetts relative to the nation. Tom Lee agreed to review DCHFP's draft report.

### **III. Items for Discussion**

#### **A. Update on Claims Data Submissions**

- Suanne Singer of the Maine Health Information Center (MHIC) provided an update on the fourteen large health insurance carriers' progress in submitting claims and eligibility data to the Council. Singer told the Council that the MHIC is in close communication with each of the carriers. So far, the process is running smoothly, and the carriers are submitting test data and making corrections. The vendor anticipates that by February 1, 2008 80% of this claims and eligibility data should be clean, complete and ready for analysis.
- The Council discussed the data submission timeline and proposed that the MHIC submit to the Council a list of carriers that are not meeting submission deadlines, so that the Council can follow-up with them as appropriate.

#### **B. Review and Approval of Principles for Selecting Quality Measures for Public Reporting (\*vote)**

- The Council reviewed proposed Principles for Selecting Quality Measures for Public Reporting. The Communications and Transparency Committee recommended these Principles. The Committee developed these recommendations from a presentation by Dana Safran and additional suggestions from the former Quality Committee and John Freedman.
- Jim Conway spoke on behalf of IHI, and presented IHI's suggestions on the measures. IHI is suggesting language clarification in *Measure 2* and *Measure 5* and proposing that an additional measure be added.
- The Council approved the Principles for Selecting Quality Measures for Public Reporting, with the following additional principle:

“Or

The measure is important for patients or communities, even though a clear consensus on accountability for performance has not been determined.”

**C. Review and Approval of Request for Proposals for Analytic Consulting Services  
(\*vote)**

- The Council reviewed the draft RFP for the Analytic Consultant. The Council's Technical Advisory Group had reviewed the initial draft RFP and suggested breaking the RFP into two pieces, a Consulting piece and an Operations piece. This RFP is for the Consulting piece.

The Analytic Consultant scope of services (pp.18-22) includes and expands upon the Council's statute, which includes specific references to the role of a vendor to advise the Council. The Analytic Consultant would be responsible for recommending a set of measures based on the Principles, for specifying exactly how to calculate those measures, and reviewing the Operations vendor's work product for accuracy and completeness.

The Operations vendor would import or have access to all of the Council's data. The Operations vendor will be responsible for all the data manipulation, data cleaning, data verification, as well as calculating the measures, creating data extracts and creating reports. The Communications and Transparency Committee will review draft scope of services for the Operations vendor and for the Web Development vendor.

The Council approved the Request for Proposals for Analytic Consulting Services with the amended Principles for Selecting Quality Measures for Public Reporting as adopted in Item B.

**Next Steps**

- Council recommends that a list of all the RFP's be documented and submitted to the Council. Members agree that a list or grid, including the vendor name and project timeline, will be helpful in tracking the work and also understanding the vendors' function as part of the whole.

*Meeting Adjourned 2:06*